

## MMRS INTRODUCTION

The Federal Metropolitan Medical Strike Team (MMST) Program was created in 1996, in response to the Tokyo subway Sarin gas attack by Aum Shinrikyo and the domestic terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, both having occurred in 1995. The MMST program was established to assist highly populated jurisdictions in developing plans, conducting training and exercises, and acquiring pharmaceuticals and personal protective equipment, in order to achieve an enhanced capability necessary to respond to a mass casualty event caused by a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) terrorist act.

Federal funding was delivered through grants which had identified specific program goals and objectives. This funding was disbursed to those prioritized jurisdictions that were identified as being potential targets due to their highly populated areas. In July 1997, the first 24 nationwide contracts were awarded, one of which is Los Angeles. In 1999 the program name was changed to the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS). Ultimately 120 key jurisdictions were designated to receive funding.

The LAMMRS is a collaborative effort of first responder agencies including the Los Angeles City Fire Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department and Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. The grant funding and objectives are managed by the LA County EMS Agency. LAMMRS design and operational considerations have been developed through the Los Angeles County Terrorism Working Group. On a day to day basis the resources of the LAMMRS are requested through the Medical Alert Center ("MAC") operated by the LA County EMS Agency.

LAMMRS links first responders, hospitals, public health, emergency management, volunteer organizations, the private sector, and other local elements, together to reduce the mortality and morbidity which would result from major terrorist acts. The LAMMRS also works with the planning efforts of neighboring jurisdictions, State and Federal agencies, and emphasizes mutual aid assistance through coordinated efforts via ICS and NIMS.

The LAMMRS continues to work on the goals set forth by current grant requirements while building upon established policies and procedures for response to a WMD incident. Questions regarding the MMRS program may be directed to the LAMMRS Program Manager.